

**FREDERICK COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING MINUTES
FREDERICK SENIOR CENTER
December 13, 2010**

DOA MEMBERS	DOA STAFF	EXCUSED	UNEXCUSED	GUESTS
Rae Ann Butler	Margaret Nusbaum	Earl S. Beck, PhD		Janice DeJuliis
Millard Haines	Susan M. Ramsburg Recording Sec	Cristina Donahue-Taylor		Mary Rice
Lloyd Hoover	Carolyn True	Hal Ehart		Debra Savageau
Diane Julian		David Gray, Comm		
Jim Judd		Carol Krimm, Alderman		
Louise Lynch		Burt Shawver		
Patricia McGill		Stephen Wilhide		
Virginia Skelley				
Robert Wannemacher				

- I. **Call to Order – Louise Lynch, Chair**, called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm.

- II. **Welcome & Introductions – –** Louise welcomed all attendees. A guest and new members were present at today's meeting so introductions were done around the room.

- III. Approval of Minutes** – - The minutes of the October 4, 2010 meeting were not approved at the November meeting. At today's meeting, Jim Judd presented alternate wording for paragraph five, section six. This revision indicates discussion was initiated by a specific person. In place of "There was some discussion during the Executive Committee on how to find out the exact needs of and exact resources for seniors in the community. That should be the primary role and goal of this commission. This commission should be more active in changing the status quo." it was suggested that the section be "Steve reported that he initiated discussion during the Executive Committee meeting on how to find out the exact needs of and exact resources for seniors in the community. He suggested that that should be the primary role of the commission. He elaborated on this point as follows. He said that this commission should be more active in changing the status quo." Members agreed to this revision and the October minutes were approved. All were in favor.

The minutes of the November 8, 2010 meeting were approved. All were in favor.

- IV. Commissioner's Report** – Commissioner Gray was not present at today's meeting.

Alderman's Report – Alderman Krimm was not present at today's meeting.

- V. Senior Forum 2010 review, All** – It was agreed that the citizen turnout for the event was good despite the weather. There was good review by the *Frederick News Post*. The turnout by the new BoCC was poor. The timing of the forum could have been better as it closely followed the election. Another suggestion for the next forum is it to have better control of the microphone to ensure that a different commissioner gets first chance at responding to questions. One suggestion for next election year is to meet with the old commissioners and have the forum with the new commissioners. There was discussion regarding the budget and the legislation package and the timelines for each.

There have been some changes to the DoA in other areas of the state. Some counties have merged their DoA with other departments due to funding issues. There have been some rumors regarding folding the MD DoA into another agency and/or possible merging of departments and responsibilities. There was a suggestion by Ginny Skelley that this commission write a letter to the Governor that the DoA be retained as an independent entity and at cabinet level status within the state government. This motion was seconded by Jim Judd. All members were in favor. It was suggested that the letter be copied to the lieutenant governor, our local delegation, the BoCC, and the Secretary of the MD DoA. The USM has sent a similar letter. Jim will work on a

draft of this letter. This must be completed and sent as soon as possible as funding issues are being reviewed and resolved.

CoA Project (P McGill email dated November 19, 2010), Louise Lynch, Patty McGill - Deferred to next month due to some commission members not in attendance at today's meeting. There was some brief discussion on the composition of the commission and needed orientation for new members.

USM Rally – Date Change, Louise Lynch - The rally date has been changed to March 9 due to a change in the governor's schedule. The date change may be better as far as the legislative progression and weather. The DoA ability to provide the van for transportation may change as the rally is now on a Wednesday and a driver may not be available. Carolyn will keep the commission informed.

- VI. Subcommittees and membership, Louise Lynch**, - It will be a goal of next year to work on creating subcommittees which work on specific tasks. We currently have some members who bring specific information to the monthly meeting. We need to have new members join the Nomination Committee. It would be a good idea to have policy and procedures in place for this commission and to present that to new members as part of an orientation packet.

Jim Judd, Patty McGill, and Millard Haines volunteered to become the new Nomination Committee as all previous members have resigned. This group will meet with Louise and Raeann next month. This could also become a recruiting opportunity and the group could look for geographic diversity as different senior communities or areas of the county may have different issues. Hal is working on a new member binder. There will be a new member orientation on January, 10 at 12:00 at the DoA office.

Town Hall Initiative, Louise Lynch – It would be a good idea for the new BoCC to hear from this commission with timely, detailed information regarding senior issues. The best place to get this information is from seniors in the community. The idea is to have a town hall meeting once or twice a year. This could be held at different senior centers. It would be beneficial to have DoA staff available to answer any questions. This would give the commission more exposure to the public. There was some discussion on the details of where, when, and who could be in charge of planning. Debra Savageau and Mary Rice agreed to start this process. An ad-hoc meeting will be scheduled.

Letter of Support for Health Care Clinic, Louise Lynch– The commission has been asked by the Frederick Community Action Agency to support their application for funding for a community health

center. The FCAA will be submitting a grant application to expand their current clinic. The center currently serves underinsured and/or homeless individuals. The BoCC has also been asked to support this health care clinic. It was stressed that if this commission does support this effort that the support would be for the concept of a health clinic in the community. Jim Judd moved the commission not submit a letter of support, Bob Wannemacher seconded the motion. Three members abstained. Motion was carried by remainder of the commission.

VII. MD Commission on Aging Report, Louise Lynch – Louise attended the most recent meeting last week. She spoke of a website, www.marylandaccesspoint/info.com, which is being developed by the MD Dept of Aging. Its purpose is to offer information about programs and services available to older adults across the state. The information may not always be complete or current. Draft by-laws for CoAs were also discussed as new ones have been recently rewritten. Louise also had information regarding the Patient Privacy and Affordability Act which she will email to Sue that will be forwarded to members. She will also forward a report from the Urban Institute. Both are lengthy documents.

Executive Committee Report, Hal Ehart – Most of the items discussed during the meeting were on today's agenda. Louise reported that preparation for the report to the BoCC will need to start in January. The commission was asked to provide input to the area plan for the Dept of Aging. This year it will be completely rewritten.

USM Report, Ginny Skelley - Ginny attended the USM monthly meeting today prior to this meeting. Ginny reported on some current legislative activities and will forward information as she receives it via email. Soon the USM will begin to email Ginny (as our representative) to receive input on whether or not to support specific legislation as part of the USM. Historically she has consulted with the executive committee to determine a response. This process will continue for now. Individual members may also vote. The USM has started to obtain 501(c)(3) status and is looking for individuals with specific legal and financial skills. There was also some discussion at the USM meeting about a new emergency medical response document which would be more uniform with other states. Ginny brought a copy for review.

Director's Report, Carolyn True - Burt Shawver was the previous liaison for Partners in Care and we will need to select a new liaison for this advisory board.

The first set of data from the 2010 census will be released next Tuesday. This information will not have any breakdowns.

The DoA has been working with individuals to help them select an suitable Medicare D prescription plan during this open enrollment period. We have been able to serve many seniors up to this point and have been fortunate to have generous volunteers who assist in the process. Open enrollment ends on December 31 and appointments will be available through December 29 at the DoA.

Secretary Chow was in town on November 30th and spent some time at several senior centers. The day ended at the Frederick Senior Center with a meal which was attended by local veterans. It was a very nice event which was well attended. The Korean War Veterans supplied the display that was located in the Frederick Senior Center for the month. It is the hope that this recognition event will become a yearly occurrence.

The food bid for the senior centers has been awarded again to Business Food Solutions of Baltimore. This year's contract is \$.12 less/meal or \$4.68. The Thurmont Senior Center may explore other options as they have not been happy with the meals provided by this vendor.

The Be A Santa To A Senior has been collecting gifts for this year's holiday season. Various senior organizations partner with the local Wal-Mart stores to provide needy local seniors with gifts. There will be a gift wrapping party at the Frederick Senior Center on Friday, December 17. Approximately 400 seniors will be served this year. This number grows every year.

The CoA meeting schedule for 2011 was distributed at today's meeting. October's meeting will be held the first Monday due to a county approved holiday. In case of inclement weather, the policy is if school is closed due to weather then meals are not served at the centers and scheduled activities are cancelled. The center is still open for non scheduled activities such as to play pool or use the computer lab. The CoA meeting is typically held if the county government is open.

- VIII. Announcements, All –** The BoCC has been discussing the option of privatizing Montevue and Citizens Nursing Home. This commission should advocate to prevent this from occurring.

The Friends of MOW 501(c)(3) was awarded grant funds which will help to purchase equipment and software.

- IX. Adjournment, All –** The meeting adjourned at 3:05 pm.

Frederick County Commission on Aging
12/13/2010

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Ramsburg,
Recording Secretary

Upcoming Dates:

January 10, 2011 - Commission on Aging, 1:00 pm at the Frederick Senior Center, Frederick, MD 21702

January 31, 2011 Executive Committee meeting, Frederick Senior Center, Frederick, MD 21702

February 14, 2011, Commission on Aging, 1:00 at the Frederick Senior Center, Frederick, MD 21702

March 9, 2011 – USM Rally, Annapolis, MD. No snow date.